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HAMPTON FARMERS' CONFERENCE OF JANUARY 1912

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NOVEMBER 1912

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THE HAMPTON NORMAL AND AGRICTULURAL INSTITUE

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The Press of
The Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute
Hampton, Virginia
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ANNOUNCEMENT

The next session of the Farmers' Conference, which takes place annually at Hampton Institute, will be held on November 13 and 14, 1912.

From year to year this Conference has steadily increased in interest and in the number of farmers attending until last year the attendance exceeded five hundred. Those present at the Conference are entertained as guests of the Institute and the two days' session is filled with addresses and discussions designed to bring out the best methods of growing farm crops of various kinds as well as to suggest methods of making farm life pleasanter and happier for men, women, and children.

A very interesting feature of the Conference is the large exhibit of farm products and of work done by children in country schools. Cash prizes are offered for first and second places in each class, and a class will be found for practically each one of the many crops grown on Virginia farms, and also for various kinds of cooking, sewing, weaving, and other manual-training work. This exhibit gives a chance for comparing the crops grown and the work done in all parts of the state, and is a means of establishing a standard of excellence toward which the farmer and farmer's wife may strive.

An announcement giving the classes for the exhibit, prizes for the same, and instructions for entering articles will be published later. This will be sent to all those whose names are now on our lists and to those who send their names and addresses to Mr. C. K. Graham, Director of Agricultural Department, Hampton Institute, Virginia. The cash prizes awarded in classes such as the corn class, where the competition is great, will be larger than those awarded in former years.

The advantage to Virginia Negro farmers and their wives of meeting together in large numbers, of discussing the best methods on the farm and in the home, and of comparing their farm products, is difficult to estimate, and yet it is safe to say that it is very great and that it is something which they can ill afford to lose. It is hoped, therefore, that the attendance at the November Conference will be even greater than ever, and all Negro farmers in Virginia, together with their wives, are cordially invited to attend and to send exhibits.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE HAMPTON FARMERS' CONFERENCE EXHIBITS

HAMPTON FARMERS' CONFERENCE OF JANUARY 1912

The large crowd of five hundred enterprising Negro farmers who came together from various parts of the state to be present at the annual farmers' conference held at Hampton Institute, January 31, 1912, was most convincing evidence of an eager desire on the part of the Negro farmers of Virginia to improve their soils, increase their yields, and secure a better home and community life. The exhibit of products from the farms, homes, and schools was no less convincing evidence of the great strides which have already been made in this direction.

The Conference opened on the evening of January 21 with a general "get-together" meeting, and this was followed by a two days' program of lectures and round-table discussions of an extremely helpful and interesting nature. All those attending the Conference were entertained as guests of Hampton Institute, and this large company with the same purpose at heart appeared to have a very jolly as well as a profitable time together.

The program prepared by the Agricultural Department of the Institute included speakers from twelve states and the Dominion of Canada. Among these were several workers from the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

The spacious school Gymnasium, which accommodates over fifteen hundred people, was filled to overflowing with interesting exhibits. The entries of corn alone reached one hundred and seventy. The exhibits of seed wheat and rye were extremely good. Similar statements could be made concerning all the exhibits. Surely the Hampton Farmers' Conference was a telling testimony to the thrift and progress of Virginia Negroes. It was an indication of what is being

quietly done through the co-operation of many agents—the preacher, the teacher, the supervisor, the farm-demonstration agent, the business man, the housewife—to solve the race problem.

COUNTY SCHOOL MANUAL TRAINING WORK

The specimens of sewing, manual training, and canned goods, which came from rural sections of Virginia, where seventeen Negro supervising teachers are at work in eighteen counties, were most creditable. First and second prizes were won in the county-school class by Northampton and Chesterfield Counties.

The work of the Negro Home Garden Association, organized in the spring of 1911, was worthily represented by

COUNTY SCHOOL EXHIBIT

hundreds of glass jars of tempting looking canned vegetables side by side with similar work done by the Locust Street Settlement of Hampton and that of the Hampton Institute Summer School.

GIRLS' GARDEN CLUB CANNED GOODS EXHIBIT

WOMAN'S PART OF FARM LIFE

Attractive and exceedingly practical exhibits by Hampton students of home economics received attention and favorable comment.

Miss Mary Yates of Toronto, Canada, who is recognized on two continents as the greatest authority on the subject of table poultry, gave a demonstration of dressing poultry for roasting. Miss Yates was at one time connected with the Royal Household of England and was a poultry instructor at

THE CORN EXHIBIT AT THE HAMPTON FARMERS' CONFERERCE

the Studley Agricultural College, England. She is now on the Ontario Government lecturing staff.

The welfare of the Negro race is so closely associated with the life in the home that the Conference gave a prominent place to the discussion of home problems. The heads of the domestic arts and domestic science departments, as well as others who are interested in home economics, spoke to the colored women on practical problems relating to health and hygiene and gave interesting demonstrations in caring for the sick.

ADDRESSES BY DR. FRISSELL AND MAJOR MOTON

Dr. Frissell expressed his satisfaction with the excellent progress which the colored people have been making in agriculture and in kindred fields. He declared that the best people of the whole country are intensely interested in what the colored people are doing to better conditions in the home, on the farm, and in the school. He emphasized the importance of the Negro preacher in the forward movement among the colored people. He showed how Dr. Wallace Buttrick, secretary of the General Education Board, is interested in the securing by the people of better schools, better homes, and better agricultural results. *Co-operation,* in his opinion, is the keynote of our modern times.

The school's commandant, Major Moton, spoke to a large audience of white and colored people on the value of teaching children to love the things by means of which they and their parents have lived and must continue to live. He said that men are slowly getting the idea that anybody can be "just a farmer." While he values reading, writing, and arithmetic, he rates living as much more important than mere academic studies.

TRUCKING IN VIRGINIA

Professor P. T. Cole, of the Norfolk Trucking Station, discussed the problem of raising potatoes. He gave some interesting figures for the shipment of Irish Cobbler potatoes from Norfolk: 1906–7, 682,079 barrels; 1908–9, 799,152; 1909–10, 934,592; 1910–11, 587,141. From the Eastern Shore

of Virginia, there were shipped, during the season of 1910–11, 974,928 barrels. Tidewater Virginia ships over three million bushels of potatoes every year, and the value of all the truck crops from eastern Virginia exceeds fifteen million dollars annually.

BACK TO THE LAND

A white farmer of ability, Mr. George A. Cosgrove, of Willington, Connecticut, told the story of his migration from the city to the farm. The financial panic of 1893 closed the factory in which this man had served as a shipping clerk for five years. The little capital which Mr. Cosgrove and his wife had saved was used in buying a small farm and the necessary tools. And so, at the age of fifty-seven, broken down in health and with a small amount of capital, Mr. Cosgrove, who was city born and city bred, moved with his wife and two grandchildren onto a farm. No one in the family knew anything about the common duties of farm life and yet they prospered in a most satisfactory way.

FARM-DEMONSTRATION WORK

The growth of demonstration-farm work among the Negroes of Virginia has been very rapid during the past five years. The story of its success was told at the Conference by Mr. John B. Pierce, a graduate of Tuskegee and Hampton, who has won the respect and esteem of the best white people of Virginia.

Five years ago one Negro demonstration agent was sent to Gloucester County and helped thirty Negro farmers to improve their land. Indirectly he influenced for good seventy-five per cent of the Negro population. To-day there are seven Negro agents, working in eleven counties of Virginia, who come in touch with a thousand Negro farmers and influence seventy-five per cent of the Negro population in these counties.

Whereas the average acre belonging to the Negro farmer in Virginia will produce fifteen bushels of corn, with the

instruction given by the farm-demonstration agents, the yields may be increased from fifty to three hundred per cent. Instead of raising one crop, farmers are now raising two and three crops each year. Fewer acres produce more crops. Men are raising more kinds of food for themselves and for their stock.

OTHER ADDRESSES

A Negro graduate of Hampton who is a lawyer-farmer, Mr. Thomas C. Walker, of Gloucester, declared that no man in a free country who is a pauper can ever be free. He said that he had no respect for a young Negro who does not make an honest effort to own and cultivate some land, and urged the young colored people to stay out of the cities of Virginia and till the soil. He declared that the Negro of the present day must *work* for his forty acres and a mule. Mr. Walker took the first prize at the Conference for the best ear of corn. Professor C. A. Zavitz, who for twenty-seven years has been connected with the Ontario Agricultural College, at Guelph, Ontario, had charge of the corn judging.

Mr. R A. Folkes, division superintendent of schools in Gloucester County, spoke on the "Possibility of a Life." Mr. C. W. Bowry, Burkeville, Virginia, superintendent of schools in Amelia and Nottoway Counties, told the story of Mr. Pierce's work in improving Negro farms, schools, and homes in Nottoway County, saying there was no greater influence for good in Negro school and farm work than that of John Pierce, who is an example worthy of being followed bp Hampton students.

RELATION OF CHURCH TO FARM

About sixty Negro ministers who were in session at the weekly meeting of the Tidewater Baptist Ministers' Conference and the Methodist Alliance in Norfolk, joined the Negro farmers in their discussions. The presiding officer was Rev. A. A. Graham, of Phoebus, Va. The general topic for discussion was the "Co-operation of the Negro Teacher and Minister." Among the ministers who spoke were Rev. J. B.

Tynes of Berkley; Rev. C. S. Morris and Rev. C. E. Withrow of Norfolk; and Rev. S. Hockaday of Norfolk County.

The following points were emphasized: It is the duty of the Negro country church to hold boys and girls in the country and to keep the Negroes in the cities from being killed off by disease; the country preacher should live among the people to

PART OF THE BEAN AND PEA EXHIBIT

whom he preaches; the rural school teachers should be Christians; the Negro preacher must minister to the social, mental, and religious life of his people, and should understand the principles of scientific farming, illustrating them by cultivating a small garden; country teachers and ministers must learn to appreciate the working people in the country.

Dr. Wallace Buttrick, of New York, declared that the

country preacher must be interested in the things in which his people are interested. He told of his experience as a young minister in the country. He invited the men of his church to attend a bee for repairing the dilapidated horse sheds. He got together the necessary materials, and when the day for work arrived only three men were on hand for the

EXHIBITS OF SEWING AND WEAVING

repair job—a trustee, his son, and the young minister! Nevertheless the *bee* went forward. On the next day every man of the congregation, for a distance of six miles, came to help in the work.

Another speaker was Mr. Bradford Knapp, who has succeeded his father as director of the Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration Work being carried on in the South, and has six hundred and fifty men working under his direction.

Mr. Knapp spoke of the direct relation between the farmer and the pastor of the rural church. He said that this relation was founded on the hard dollar, which must be provided every time an attempt was made to secure better roads, better schools, better homes, better dress, and better salaries for the rural ministers. The present problem is how to increase the earning capacity of the man on the land.

CONCLUSIONS

A gratifying change in the character of the exhibits as compared with those of previous years was very noticeable. The whole exhibit was of a more practical nature. Not only were farm products better, but the home and school products savoured more of practical usage and less of gaudy display. The sewing, weaving, and manual-training work showed a decided tendency to improve and make serviceable the more essential things such as clothing and furniture, rather than to exhibit fancy, decorative articles.

Baskets and mats woven out of corn husks were a most interesting part of the exhibit, and even very creditable and effective hats of woven corn husks appeared, these having been made by school girls. Indeed, the whole conferenee told a story of intelligent activity on the farm and of intelligent interest in home and school life.

That the Farmers' Conference was a great success is unquestioned. It gave the workers and students of Hampton Institute and many visitors a clearer idea of what is being done to improve the man and woman on the soil. It furnished conclusive proof that the Negro of Virginia is mixing brains with his farming and his home problems. It furnished evidence to some doubting Thomases that Hampton's idea of making agriculture the core of its growing work is economically sound.

PREMIUM AWARDS IN VIRGINIA

The following first and second prizes were awarded in January 1912 at the close of the Hampton Negro Farmers' Conference:

Best ear of corn: Thomas C. Walker, Gloucester;
G. A. Bragg, Mannboro
White dent corn: Jefferson Carter, Gloucester;
S. Fitzgerald, Blackstone
Yellow dent corn: H. Evans, Church Road;
E. H. Thomas, McKennie
Popcorn: Margaret Blue, Hampton; W. H. Roberts, Smithfield
Wheat: J. W. Lewis, Bowling Green; Willie Irby, Blackstone
Rye: Geo. T. Redd, Bowling Green; W. C. Ashley, Gloucester
Corn silage: C. H. Quanders, Alexandria; no competition
Soja beans: Weaver Home, Hampton; R. D. Lemon, Gloucester
Cowpeas: R. D. Lemon, Gloucester;
Lafayette Upshaw, Bowling Green
Sunflower: Mrs. Ida E. Bassette, Hampton; no competition
Peachblow potatoes: C. H. Quanders, Alexandria;
Margaret Blue, Hampton
Sweet potatoes: Albert Reid, Gloucester; G. P. Godwin, Smithfield
Butter beans: Weaver Home, Hampton; Mrs. Charlotte Alexander
White beans: C. Maddix, Blackstone; Lee Jackson, Wilson
Spinach: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton; no competition
Parsnips: G. P. Godwin, Smithfield; no competition
Green onions: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton; no competition
Turnips: G. P. Godwin, Smithfield: J. W. Hobday, Bena
Rutabagas: Weaver Home, Hampton; J. W. Porter, Hampton
Cotton seed: T. S. Wright, Fentress; no competition
Tobacco:
Flue-cured wrapper: I. T. Bridgeforth, Lunen burg
R. E. Morse, Lunenburg
Flue-cured shorts: E. B. Hinton, Pupa;
C. M. Hinton, Pupa
Dark wrapper: N. P. Johnson, Crewe;
J. H. Hudson, Prince Edward
Dark shorts: Plummer Morton, Drakes Branch
David Robinson, Wellville

Peanuts:
Spanish: Moses Fitzgerald, Blackstone; no competition
Virginia running: R. L. Brooks, Hampton;
W. H. Roberts, Smithfield
Virginia bunch: P. Jones, Hampton;
R. Marshall, Hampton
Black walnuts: Mrs. Hattie Jackson, Gloucester;
Mrs. C. Barnes, Gloucester
Hickory nuts: Mrs. M. C. Kidd, Gloucester;
W. H. Roberts, Smithfield
Dried apples: Mrs. Walter Jones, Batesville;
Mrs. J. J. Booth, Gloucester
Fresh fruits: Lillian Wright, Phoebus; no competition
Carcass of shoat: R. L. Wynn, Wellville; no competition
Cured ham: R. L. Wynn, Wellville; Mrs. M. C. Kidd, Gloucester
Smoked ham: T. S. Wright, Fentress; T. C. Walker, Gloucester
Smoked bacon: T. S. Wright, Fentress; no competition
Salt fish: C. B. Lemon, Gloucester; no competition
Fresh eggs: Mrs. I. Bassette, Hampton; Nannie Lattimer, Hampton
Lard: Joseph Hill, McKennie; Margaret Blue, Hampton
Pork-sausage: W. F. Holmes, Gloucester; Edith Brooks, Hampton
Embroidery: Mrs. Emma Bell, Phoebus;
Mrs. Lillian Carter, Phoebus
Drawn work: Mrs. A. A. Graham, Phoebus;
Mrs. Mary E. White, Cappahosic
Knitted woolen socks: Mrs. L. Braxton, Gloucester;
Mrs. Elizabeth Leigh, Gloucester
Crocheted table mat: Susie E. Lewis, Woodville;
Mary E. White, Cappahosic
Centerpiece: Mrs. A. A. Graham, Phoebus;
A. C. Purdee, Phoebus
Child's wash dress: Mrs. I. Bassette, Hampton;
Mrs. Emma Dedmon, Gloucester
Boy's shirtwaist: M. B. Reid, no competition
Plain sewing: Lottie Barnes, Phoebus;
Mrs. Aggie Barnes, Phoebus
Shirtwaist: Mrs. H. E. Petticolas, Hampton;
Mrs. Aggie Barnes, Phoebus
Kitchen apron: Mrs. I. Bassette, Hampton; Mrs. Barrett, Hampton
Best cotton quilt: Mrs. Virginia Johnson, Buckroe;
Fannie Lattimore, Hampton
Best woolen quilt: Mrs. M. A. Fitzgerald, Blackstone;
Mrs. Bertha Trent, Phoebus

Sofa cushion: Mary E. White, Cappahosic;
Mrs. Emma Boman, Phoebus
Hand-woven rug: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton;
Mrs. Elizabeth Leigh, Gloucester
Collection of plants: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton;
Mrs. Bassette, Hampton
Yeastbread: Geneva Diggs, Phoebus; Mrs. Clark, Hampton
Graham bread: Geneva Diggs, Phoebus;
Mrs. A. Williams, Hampton
Ginger bread: Mrs. F. L. Chevious, Gloucester;
Mrs. C. B. Lemon, Gloucester
Bread rolls: Geneva Diggs, Phoebus;
Mrs. George Davis, Hampton
Parker House rolls: Mrs. George Davis, Hampton;
Mrs. J. Urquhart, Phoebus
Beaten biscuit: Geneva Diggs, Phoebus; no competition
Baking powder biscuits: Margaret Blue, Hampton:
Mrs. M. D. Hill, Hampton
Plain white cake: Mrs. J. Urquhart, Phoebus; no competition
Chocolate layer-cake: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton; no competition
Sponge cake: Mary McCoy, Hampton; Virginia Davis, Hampton
Cookies: Emma Terrell, Gloucester; Margaret Blue, Hampton
Doughnuts: Mrs. Watts, Hampton; Mrs. Carrie Lewis, Hampton
Apple pie: Margaret Blue, Hampton; Francis Randall, Gloucester
Sweet-potato pie: Margaret Blue, Hampton;
Mrs. A. James, Hampton
Apple jelly: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton; Mrs. J H. Evans, Normal School
Grape jelly: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton;
Mrs. F. L. Chevious, Gloucester
Quince jelly: J. S. Jimmerson, Hampton;
Mrs. Ida Jenkins, Phoebus
Plum preserves: Mrs. E. A. Miller, Hampton;
Margaret Blue, Hampton
Fig preserves: Margaret Blue, Hampton; J. R. Beaman, Hampton
Canned peaches: Mrs. John Watts. Hampton;
Mrs. I. Bassette, Hampton
Canned plums: J. S. Morris, Gloucester
Canned pears: Mrs. John Watts, Hampton;
Mrs. Ida Jenkins, Phoebus
Canned blackberries: Mrs. C. Barnes, Gloucester;
J. A. Booth, Gloucester
Canned strawberries: Mrs. H. Barrett, Hampton;
Mrs. John Watts, Hampton
Canned apples: Mrs. H. Barrett, Hampton

Canned cherries: L. R. Lemon, Gloucester;
Mrs. Mary Curtis, Phoebus
Canned tomatoes: Mrs. F. D. Banks, Phoebus;
Mrs. W. J. Godwin, Smithfield
Canned corn: G. E. Oliver, Crewe; W. H. Carter, Gloucester
Canned string beans: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton;
Mrs. F. D. Banks, Phoebus
Chowchow; Mrs. L. N. Stephens, Phoebus; no competition
Pickled green tomatoes: Mrs. Maggie Robinson, Wellville;
Mrs. L. N. Stephens, Phoebus
Pickled pears: Mrs. John Watts, Hampton;
R. J Gordon, Dixondale
Sour cucumber pickles: Miss Emma Jameson;
Mrs. Margaret Blue, Hampton
Pickled onions: Bassette, Hampton; no competition
Sorghum: P. J. Brooks, Gloucester
Laundry soap: Mrs. Mary Lawson, Wellville;
Mrs. W. H. Harris, Phoebus
Molasses: A. T. Smith, Wellville
Peanut brittle: Mrs. Carrie Francis, Morrison; no competition
Fondant: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton; Mrs. Watts, Hampton
Fudge: Mrs. L. J. Hill, Hampton: Mrs. Spinney, Hampton
Print butter: Weaver Home, Hampton;
John Randall, James, Gloucester Co.

Husk door-mat: Charles Adkins, Chase City; Geo. Francis
Axe handle: M. Tabb, Gloucester: Alex. Dedman, Gloucester
Singletree: Sam Brown, Newport News; W. H. Salley, Chase City
Singletree (Ironed): W. H. Salley, Chase City: no competition
County-school exhibits: Northhampton County;
Chesterfield County
Town-school exhibits: Whittier School; Newport News
Chair: Dorothy Boykin, Whittier; no competition
Mechanical toy: McKinley Tynes, Smithfield;
W. B. Godwin, Smithfield
Crocheting: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton; Mrs. Barrett, Hampton
Embroidery: Viola Holmes, Hampton; Cordova Bailey, Hampton
Best-dressed doll: Laura Bassette, Hampton;
Anna L. Smith, Buckroe
Exhibit of personal work: Mrs. Barrett, Hampton;
Helen Lattimore, Primrose Club, Hampton

STUDENT LIST OF PREMIUM AWARDS

Yeast bread: Ethel Bailey: Hattie Tucker
Bread rolls: Annie Cooksie: Hattie Tucker
Baking powder biscuits: Mary Briggs; Annie Freeland
Beaten biscuits: Eliza Brooks; no competition
Sponge cake: Pauline Dungee; Maud Gamble
Plain white cake: Fannie E. Brown; Virginia Parsons
Chocolate layer-cake: Violet Alsup; Ethel Tucker
Cookies: Pauline Dungee; Whittier School
Doughnuts: Lizzie Brooks; Bertha Evans
Apple pie: Julia Calvin; Cynthia Powdrill
Molasses candy: Melissa Preston; no competition
Peanut brittle: Portie Spinnie; no competition
Fudge: M. and J. Freeland; Louise Banks
Man's shirt: Alice Bryant; Mary Bishop
Buttonholes: Daphne Palmer; Edith Pole
Plain sewing: Gertrude Ockery; Lulu Jones
Kitchen apron: Edith Pole; F. O. Hoffman
Sofa cushion: Lillian Wright; Erla Smith
Dyed cloth for weaving: E. H. Vaughn; E. H. Vaughn
Hand-woven rug: Elizabeth Driver; Mary Bishop
Pillow cover: Ethel Laws; Olivia Palmer
Butter: L. S. Randall; S. D. Spady
Cottage cheese: C. S. Manley; S. D. Spady